

PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of

Docket No: Q77492

Takashi OHIRA

Appln. No.: 10/662,330

Group Art Unit: 1762

Confirmation No.: 9180

Examiner: Elena TSOY

Filed: September 16, 2003

For: GOLF BALL PREPARATION METHOD AND GOLF BALL

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, Appellant submits the following:

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Bridgestone Sports Co., Ltd., the assignee of the present application.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant, Appellant's counsel, and the assignee of the application are not aware of any other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected.

Claim 2 is withdrawn from consideration for being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are being appealed.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are set forth in their entirety in the Claims Appendix submitted herewith.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

On April 13, 2007, a Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 was filed in response to the final Office Action mailed January 16, 2007. The April 2007 Response did not include an amendment to the claims.

An Advisory Action was mailed April 20, 2007, indicating that the April 2007 Response has been considered but does not place the application in condition for allowance.

A Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review were filed on May 16, 2007. The May 2007 filing did not include an amendment to the claims.

A Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review was mailed June 5, 2007, indicating that the present application should “proceed to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.”

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 1 is an independent claim directed to a method for preparing a golf ball. See, *e.g.*, page 1, line 35, of the specification. The method of Claim 1 comprises coating a layer of a primer composition on the cover surface of a golf ball. See, *e.g.*, page 2, lines 12-18. The primer composition of Claim 1 comprises an aqueous resin having UV-curable functional groups in a molecule and a crosslinker. See, *e.g.*, page 2, lines 12-18. The method of Claim 1 also comprises applying a UV-curable paint onto the layer. See, *e.g.*, page 2, lines 12-18. The method of Claim 1 further comprises irradiating the layers with UV radiation, thereby permitting both of the primer composition layer and the UV-curable paint to cure at the same time. See, *e.g.*, page 2, lines 12-18, and the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7. According to Claim 1, the primer composition layer is not irradiated with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon. See, *e.g.*, Table 2 at page 9.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1. Claim 3 recites that the UV-curable functional groups are selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic groups, cinnamoyl groups and azido groups. See, *e.g.*, the first paragraph at page 3 of the specification.

Claim 4 depends from Claim 1. Claim 4 recites that the aqueous resin is prepared by introducing water-soluble groups into base resins. See, *e.g.*, the last full paragraph at page 3 of the specification. Claim 4 also recites that the water-soluble groups are selected from the group consisting of carboxyl groups, sulfonate groups, and amino groups. See, *e.g.*, the last full paragraph at page 3 of the specification.

Claim 5 depends from Claim 1. Claim 5 recites that the crosslinker included in the primer composition is a carbodiimide-based crosslinker or an ethyleneimine-based crosslinker. See, *e.g.*, the second full paragraph at page 4 of the specification.

Claim 6 depends from Claim 1. Claim 6 recites that the layer of the primer composition has a thickness ranging from 5 to 12 μm . See, *e.g.*, the first full paragraph at page 7 of the

specification. Claim 6 also recites that the total thickness of the primer and UV-curable paint layers ranges from 15 to 32 μm . See, *e.g.*, the first full paragraph at page 7 of the specification.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The issues presented for review are whether the examiner erred in:

(A) rejecting Claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,165,564 ("Crast") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0016226 ("Jin"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,319,983 ("Lokai"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,300,325 ("Nealon"); and

(B) rejecting Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,089,376 ("Sethachayanon").

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Response to rejection of Claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon.

1. The error in the rejection

The error in the rejection is that the combination of Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon, does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 against the subject matter of Claims 1 and 3-6.

2. Why Claims 1 and 3-6 are patentable over Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon

a. None of the applied references teaches or suggests to not irradiate the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon

It is improper to read an express limitation out of a claim. See *Texas Instruments Inc. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Comm'n*, 988 F.2d 1165, 26 USPQ2d 1018 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc. v. United States Surgical Corp.*, 93 F.3d 1572, 40 USPQ2d 1019 (Fed. Cir. 1996); *Lockheed Martin Corp. v. Space Systems/Loral, Inc.*, 249 F.3d 1314, 58 USPQ2d 1671 (Fed. Cir. 2001). Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that the primer composition layer is not irradiated with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon. The examiner's analysis of Claim 1 thus far during the prosecution ignores the recitation that "the primer composition layer is not irradiated with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon." Indeed, none of the applied references teaches or suggests to not irradiate the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon.

The examiner states in the Advisory Action mailed April 20, 2007, that "*none* of the applied references teaches or suggests to *irradiate* the primer composition layer with UV radiation *prior to* having the UV-curable paint applied thereon including Nealon" (emphasis in the original).

Claim 1, however, does not recite “wherein the primer composition layer *is irradiated* with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon.” Instead, Claim 1 recites “wherein the primer composition layer is *not irradiated* with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon.”

Prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest each and every recitation of a claim. *See*, MPEP § 2143. In the present case, even if, for the sake of argument, Appellant was to agree that the applied references do not mention irradiating the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon, it would say nothing about whether the applied references teach or suggest the actual recitation in Claim 1, *i.e.*, whether the applied references teach or suggest to *not irradiate* the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon. It is improper for the examiner to conclude that silence with respect to the opposite of a claim recitation amounts to a teaching of the claim recitation.

In short, the examiner has not identified a teaching or suggestion in the applied art to *not irradiate* the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon.

b. Nealon teaches away from not irradiating the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon

Nealon teaches away from not irradiating the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon. At column 4, lines 45-54, Nealon teaches to cure the primer for 10 minutes in a curing oven before applying the top coat.

In the April 2007 Advisory Action, the examiner disagrees, stating that “claim 1 does not exclude a step of partial curing of the primer by heat (as in Nealon) before co-curing the primer and the top coat by UV-radiation” (emphasis in the original).

Appellant’s position, however, does not concern whether Claim 1 excludes or includes curing the primer composition layer by heat before having the UV-curable paint applied on the

primer composition layer. Appellant's point is that Nealon's teaching at column 4, lines 45-54, to cure the primer for 10 minutes in a curing oven *before* applying the top coat amounts to a teaching away from *not irradiating* the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon. The examiner herself has stated at page 3, lines 5-16, of the April 2007 Advisory Action that heat is functionally equivalent to UV-radiation in the present context. Therefore, in addition to the fact that that none of the applied references teaches or suggests to *not irradiate* the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon, Nealon's teaching at column 4, lines 45-54, by the examiner's own reasoning, would actually lead one of ordinary skill in the art to experiment with irradiating the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon, in direct contrast to the recitation in Claim 1 of *not irradiating* the primer composition layer with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon.

c. Combining Crast and Jin in the manner proposed by the examiner would not lead to the primer composition layer of Claim 1

As stated at page 1 of the specification, the primary reference, Crast, leaves room for improvement in terms of the adhesion between a coating and a golf ball surface. Indeed, although Crast broadly teaches a primer/basecoat onto which a UV-curable coating may be applied, the examiner acknowledges at page 3 of the Office Action mailed September 5, 2006, that Crast does not specifically teach a golf ball having the claimed primer composition, comprising an aqueous resin having UV-curable functional groups in a molecule and a crosslinker, between a cover surface of the golf ball and the UV-curable coating.

The examiner attempts to cure the deficiency of Crast by reference to Jin.

Appellant respectfully disagrees with the examiner's proposed combination of art, for at least the following reasons.

First, combining the teachings of Crast and Jin is based on improper hindsight reasoning. In particular, one of ordinary skill in the art, armed with the teachings of Crast, would have had

no motivation to employ the UV curable coating of Jin as a primer between a cover surface of a golf ball and the UV-curable coating of Crast.

In this regard, the examiner asserts that the motivation to combine the teachings of Crast and Jin would have been to provide desired enhanced adhesion to an ionomer coating. However, the teachings of Crast provide no indication that enhanced adhesion is needed between the UV-curable coating of Crast and an ionomer cover. In fact, the very opposite is true. At column 4, lines 11-12, Crast teaches that its UV-curable coating may be applied to ionomeric covers. The only teaching or suggestion that the coatings of Crast may be deficient appears at page 1 of Appellant's disclosure. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill at the time the present application was filed may have considered the teachings of Crast and Jin to be cumulative of each other.

Further, Jin does not teach the use of its UV-curable coating as a primer. At paragraph [0022], Jin identifies its UV-curable coating as a topcoat. Likewise, Jin's claims recite that its coating is an outer coating or a top coat. See Claims 1, 3, and 9. Thus, in addition to there being no motivation to combine the teachings of Crast with the teachings of Jin for the reasons mentioned above, the teachings of Crast and Jin do not provide a reasonable expectation of success that the UV-curable coating of Jin could serve as a primer delivering adequate adhesion between the UV-curable coating of Crast and the cover surface of a golf ball. For example, there is no teaching in either Crast or Jin of what the adhesion interface might be like between the UV-curable coating of Jin and the UV-curable coating of Crast.

Second, even if the teachings of Crast and Jin would have been combined by one of ordinary skill in the art in the manner proposed by the examiner, the result would not have led to the presently claimed method. The method of Claim 1 comprises coating a layer of a primer composition comprising *an aqueous resin* having UV-curable functional groups in a molecule and a crosslinker on the cover surface of a golf ball.

In contrast, at paragraphs [0013] and [0036], Jin clearly states that the advantageous effects and benefits of its invention are tied to the coating being "a nearly 100% solid system"

with any remainder being solvent. When the description at paragraphs [0013] and [0036] of Jin is considered in combination with Jin's criticism of water-borne coatings at paragraph [0007], it is clear that combining Crast and Jin in the manner proposed by the examiner would not lead to the *aqueous* resin-containing primer composition layer of Claim 1.

d. Jin teaches away from the proposed combination of Jin and Lokai

During prosecution, the examiner has acknowledged that Jin teaches a solvent-free coating and that Jin fails to teach that its coating can be formulated as a water-based composition. See, for example, the second full paragraph at page 4 of the September 2006 Office Action. The examiner attempts to cure this deficiency in Jin by reference to Lokai.

Jin, however, clearly "teaches away" from the proposed combination of Jin and Lokai. In this regard, a "teaches away" argument is most persuasive when a reference(s) criticizes, discredits, or otherwise discourages the solution claimed. See, *In re Fulton*, 391 F.3d 1195, 1201, 73 USPQ2d 1141, 1146 (Fed. Cir. 2004). Here, Jin criticizes, discredits, or otherwise discourages modifying its solvent-free coating by reformulating it as a water-based composition.

First, at paragraphs [0013] and [0036], Jin discourages such a reformulation by making clear that the advantageous effects and benefits of its invention are tied to the coating being "a nearly 100% solid system" with any remainder being solvent. Second, at paragraph [0007], Jin criticizes water-borne coatings as suffering from the drawback of a long curing time. In short, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Jin and Lokai in the manner proposed by the examiner.

In response to Appellant's position that Jin criticizes, discredits, or otherwise discourages modifying its solvent-free coating by reformulating it as a water-based composition, the examiner states in the April 2007 Advisory Action that "it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a water-borne coating composition ... when drying time of ½ hour is not crucially important."

The examiner's analysis of Appellant's argument against the combination of Jin and Lokai is improper. As stated above, Jin clearly states at paragraphs [0013] and [0036] that the advantageous effects and benefits of its invention are tied to the coating being "a nearly 100% solid system" with any remainder being solvent. Reformulating Jin's solvent-free coating as a water-based composition would be completely contrary to Jin's teachings.

Also, Appellant disagrees that the present "teaches away" argument based on Jin's criticism of aqueous coatings can be dismissed by hypothesizing that the aspect being criticized by the prior art may not in all instances be crucial. There is no basis for such a conclusion. If the examiner's approach were to be considered proper, not a single "teaches away" argument would ever stand scrutiny. The fact of the matter is that Jin contains at paragraph [0007] a blanket criticism of water-borne coatings based on the drawback of long curing time. The ½ to 4 hours time range is merely an example identified in Jin.

Further, the examiner's emphasis on "current" compositions at page 5 of the April 2007 Advisory Action is not understood. At the time of the invention of Jin (June 8, 2001), family members of Lokai (*e.g.*, EP 1 043 351 A2) had already been published and were thus "current."

e. Other reasons leading to a conclusion of nonobviousness for the presently claimed subject matter

The examiner emphasizes at the bottom of page 2 of the final Office Action mailed January 16, 2007, that she is relying on the secondary reference Nealon for the teaching of co-curing a top coat and a primer layer.

The "co-curing" language in Claim 1 actually recites "irradiating the layers *with UV radiation*", thereby permitting both of the primer composition layer and the UV-curable paint to cure at the same time." Nealon does not at all mention UV radiation. The curing in Nealon is strictly thermal curing. See, for example, column 4, lines 45-54, of Nealon.

Nealon teaches at column 4, lines 52-54, that the primer and top coat are co-cured and crosslinked at 54 °C for six hours. However, at column 4, lines 45-48, Nealon teaches that the balls are coated with the primer, dried, then cured for 10 minutes at 66 °C in a curing oven.

Nowhere in Nealon is it disclosed or taught that the primer composition layer is not irradiated with UV radiation before the UV-curable paint is applied onto the layer. Also, Nealon's process presents that the primer and top coat are co-cured by heat, which does not suggest using UV radiation.

With respect to effects, the teachings of Nealon are insufficient. That is, the effects (or objects) of Nealon are to provide a golf ball having superior adhesion of its polyurethane top coat to a thermoplastic ionomer resin-based composition. But, Nealon is silent in teaching that the superior adhesion property carries the improvement of abrasion-resistance of golf balls. The effects and advantages of the presently claimed subject matter is completely unexpected from Nealon.

In fact, in the process of Nealon, the primer composition layer has been almost cured progressively before the top coat is applied. So, the adhesion property of Nealon would be weak, in comparison to that achieved by the presently claimed subject matter. In the present method, the primer composition is not cured before the UV-curable paint is applied onto the layer. In the presently claimed subject matter, both of the primer composition and the UV-curable paint are cured by UV radiation at the same time, thereby to obtain an enhanced bond strength between the primer composition layer and the UV-curable paint layer. The bond strength of the presently claimed subject matter would be stronger than that of Nealon.

Crast merely teaches a method for a preparing a golf ball having a polyurethane top coating formed from UV-curable coating. However, Crast fails to teach that a primer composition comprises an aqueous resin having UV-curable functional group in a molecule and a crosslinker. And, Crast fails to disclose or teach that both of the primer composition and the UV-curable paint are cured by UV radiation at the same time.

None of Jin and Lokai cures the deficiencies noted herein.

The patentability of the pending claims is further emphasized by noting the following.

In the method of Claim 1, a layer of a primer composition is coated on the cover surface of a golf ball. After that, a UV-curable paint is applied onto the primer composition layer. The

primer composition layer is not irradiated with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon. After the UV-curable paint is applied onto the primer composition layer, both of the layers (*i.e.*, the primer composition layer and the UV-curable paint) are able to cure at the same time by irradiating the layers with UV radiation. As a result, by providing the claimed method, an abrasion resistance of the ball surface can be improved, and the bond strength between the coating and the cover surface can be enhanced.

In contrast, Crast teaches a method for preparing a golf ball having a polyurethane top coating formed from UV-curable coating. Crast is discussed at page 1 of the specification.

Crast fails to teach that a primer composition comprises an aqueous resin having UV-curable functional group in a molecule and a crosslinker, as acknowledged by the examiner. Since the method of Claim 1 recites that a primer layer is not irradiated by UV radiation before applying a UV-curable paint onto the layer, there is a sufficient difference between the claimed method and Crast. At the very least, Crast fails to teach that a primer layer is not cured by UV radiation before forming the polyurethane top coating. Indeed, Crast may be said to correspond to Comparative Example 1 or 2 of the present specification, because the primer composition of Crast does not have an aqueous resin having a UV-curable functional group in a molecule and a crosslinker, and also Crast does not suggest the effects that result from both of the primer composition and the UV-curable paint being cured at the same time.

Therefore, Crast teaches away from the claimed method.

Each of the other references of Jin, Lokai, Nealon is silent in teaching the feature of the claimed method. The cited secondary references do not disclose or suggest the claimed method satisfying all of the steps recited in Claim 1.

3. A separate reason why Claim 4 is patentable over Crast in view of Jin,
further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon

Claim 4 depends from Claim 1. Claim 4 recites that the aqueous resin is prepared by introducing water-soluble groups into base resins. Claim 4 also recites that the water-soluble

groups are selected from the group consisting of carboxyl groups, sulfonate groups, and amino groups.

At page 3 of the January 2007 final Office Action, the examiner states “that introducing water-soluble groups, such as carboxyl groups to a resin in a coating composition is a well known and conventionally used technique for converting a non-aqueous composition to a water based composition.” However, the examiner’s position is unfounded; she has not pointed to anything of record as a basis for her conclusion.

Further, the examiner states at page 4 of the January 2007 final Office Action that Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon “fails to teach that the aqueous resin is prepared by introducing carboxyl, amino or sulfonate groups.”

Accordingly, the examiner has not identified a teaching or suggestion in the presently applied art of the presently claimed aqueous resin prepared by introducing water-soluble groups into base resins, wherein the water-soluble groups are selected from the group consisting of carboxyl groups, sulfonate groups, and amino groups.

B. Response to rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,089,376 (“Setthachayanon”).

1. The error in the rejection

The error in the rejection is that the combination of Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, further in view of Nealon, and further in view of Setthachayanon does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 against the subject matter of Claim 4.

2. Why Claim 4 is patentable over Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, further in view of Nealon, and further in view of Setthachayanon

Claim 4 depends from Claim 1.

For the reasons stated earlier herein with respect to the applied combination of Crast in

view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon, the method of Claim 1 is unobvious over Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, and further in view of Nealon.

Setthachayanon fails to cure the identified deficiencies of Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, further in view of Nealon with respect to the method recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, at least by virtue of its dependence from Claim 1, Claim 4 is patentable over Crast in view of Jin, further in view of Lokai, further in view of Nealon, and further in view of Setthachayanon.

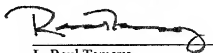
C. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, Appellant respectfully requests withdrawal of each of the present §103 obviousness rejections.

Unless a check is submitted herewith for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §41.37(a) and 1.17(c), please charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 13, 2007

CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS 1 and 3-6 ON APPEAL:

1. A method for preparing a golf ball, comprising the steps of:
coating a layer of a primer composition comprising an aqueous resin having UV-curable functional groups in a molecule and a crosslinker on the cover surface of a golf ball,
applying a UV-curable paint onto the layer, wherein the primer composition layer is not irradiated with UV radiation prior to having the UV-curable paint applied thereon, and
irradiating the layers with UV radiation, thereby permitting both of the primer composition layer and the UV-curable paint to cure at the same time.
3. The method for preparing a golf ball of claim 1, wherein the UV-curable functional groups are selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic groups, cinnamoyl groups and azido groups.
4. The method for preparing a golf ball of claim 1, wherein the aqueous resin is prepared by introducing water-soluble groups into base resins wherein the water-soluble groups are selected from the group consisting of carboxyl groups, sulfonate groups, and amino groups.
5. The method for preparing a golf ball of claim 1, wherein the crosslinker included in the primer composition is a carbodiimide-based crosslinker or an ethylenimine-based crosslinker.
6. The method for preparing a golf ball of claim 1, wherein the layer of the primer composition has a thickness ranging from 5 to 12 μm , and the total thickness of the primer and UV-curable paint layers ranges from 15 to 32 μm .

EVIDENCE APPENDIX:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix), submitted herewith are copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or any other evidence entered by the Examiner and relied upon by Appellant in the appeal.

NONE

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Submitted herewith are copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified about in Section II pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ii).

NONE

PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of

Docket No: Q77492

Takashi OHIRA

Appln. No.: 10/662,330

Group Art Unit: 1762

Confirmation No.: 9180

Examiner: Elena TSOY

Filed: September 16, 2003

For: GOLF BALL PREPARATION METHOD AND GOLF BALL

SUBMISSION OF APPEAL BRIEF

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith please find an Appeal Brief. The statutory fee of \$500.00 is being charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS Payment Screen. The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

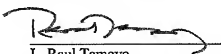
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Date: July 13, 2007